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Extract from Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary

June 21st, 1941 (Extract)

At 6.30 p.m. I went to Prince KONOYE's house at Hejiro to dine with him and Baron HIRANUMA and to exchange opinions concerning current questions.

The gist of our talk was as follows: If a war between Germany and Soviet were to break out, it would prove a serious hindrance to the Japanese-German Alliance, as was the case with Germany's attitude at the time of the HIRANUMA Cabinet. Prince KONOYE, therefore, said that it would be necessary for the Cabinet to bear this responsibility. I objected to Prince KONOYE's opinion, saying that at the time of the HIRANUMA Cabinet, Germany signed a treaty with Soviet Russia, our hypothetical enemy, before the said Cabinet's policy was decided. In the case of the HIRANUMA Cabinet, the Premier, who had emphasized to the Emperor the necessity of a national policy to look upon the Soviet Russia as our hypothetical enemy, could not help keenly feeling the responsibility because this hypothetical enemy, Soviet Russia, had concluded a treaty with Germany. It is an important requirement in the Japanese-German Alliance that proper adjustment of Japanese-Soviet diplomatic relations should be effected. Germany knew this and had a complete understanding of it. Moreover Germany did not show any objection to the neutrality treaty between Soviet Russia and Japan. Regarding the war between Germany and Soviet Russia, we were not taken by surprise, for Ambassador OSHIMA had been confidentially informed. There is enough room for the government to act wisely considering the attendant circumstances. If the KONOYE Cabinet were to resign, it would create an undesirable precedent.

As regards Foreign Minister MATSUOKA's opinions, it is difficult from them to judge his true intentions. At a time when this country was facing a crisis, it was not advisable to cause a split in the Cabinet. We should do everything to avoid this, for it would disgrace the honour of our country to get caught in the backwash of other countrys' actions and so have the Cabinet broken up. The Premier was expected to assume leadership, if the following three cases should arise:

1. In case of a war between Germany and Soviet Russia.
1. In case of the participation of America in the war.
1. In case of our receiving an answer from the U.S.A.